

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:375
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2002
VOTERS I CARDS
P.D. ELANGO VAN;Y.G. MAHAJAN

Will the Minister of LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been any progress in providing Voters Identity Cards by the Election Commission during the last one year;
- (b) the percentage of electorate provided Identity Cards by the Election Commission so far, State-wise, Union Territory-wise;
- (c) the total cost incurred thereon State-wise, Union Territory-wise;
- (d) the time by which all the voters are likely to be provided such cards and its use made mandatory; and
- (e) the steps taken to remove discrepancies noted so far in preparation of such cards and their reflection in the electoral rolls ?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. According to the Election Commission of India, more than one crore seventy eight lakh voters have been issued with defect free electors' photo identity cards (EPIC) since last year. A statement showing the progress of issuance of EPICs as on 20.2.2002 and release of provisional payments to various States/UTs by the Central Government towards expenditure incurred by them thereon is laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The Election Commission of India has informed that the scheme to issue EPIC is not a project but a programme for the completion of which no time limit can be fixed as the registration of electors is a continuous and ongoing process (excepting for a brief period between the last date for filing nomination and completion of electoral process) on account of more number of persons becoming eligible for the right of franchise on attaining the age of 18 years as also due to movement of electors. The Election Commission had made the use of these cards compulsory, along with other forms of identification during the General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Haryana, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Pondicherry in 2001 and during the recent General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Manipur, Punjab, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh. The Election Commission has further informed that it is continuously emphasizing progressive use of EPICs in future elections and for that, the Commission has instructed the Chief Electoral Officers to increase the coverage of EPICs to at least 85% of the electorate to enable it to announce compulsory production of EPIC during the polls.

(e) The enumerators and supervisors appointed by the Election Commission for revision of electoral rolls obtain the feedback regarding the availability and correctness of the entries in the EPIC. This information provides necessary inputs to launch the campaign for preparation and issuance of the EPICs to the residual electors and corrections, if any, in the EPIC issued earlier by issue of duplicate EPIC. These enumerators and supervisors also take back the EPICs of such persons who expire and deposit the same with the Electoral Registration Officers. These measures are expected to reduce the discrepancies in the identity cards and in the electoral rolls.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 375 dated 18.4.2002.

Status report on progress of issuance of electors' photo identity cards and release of funds therefor.

States/UTs	Total Electors	Electors issued with defect-free	% of 2)	% age(3	Total Provisional
		as %	Payment Released		
		of 2)	(in Rupees)		
		Identity Cards			

Andhra Pradesh	50,898,945	32,568,406	63.99	35,10,00,000
Arunachal Pra	638,718	373,452	58.47	2,01,13,120
Assam	14,426,221	67,479	0.47	12,47,23,000
Bihar	58,438,317	21,681,836	37.10	35,53,92,000
Goa	934,980	518,103	55.41	72,69,000
Gujarat	30,437,773	23,177,051	76.15	24,86,64,508
Haryana	12,248,696	9,105,465	74.34	7,90,85,000
Himachal Prad	3,773,424	2,657,692	70.43	3,77,77,000

J & K	5,022,782	0	0.00	0
Karnataka	35,123,307	24,612,144	70.07	22,09,53,000
Kerala	22,835,568	18,344,689	80.33	10,00,00,000
Madhya Pradesh	32,055,990	22,452,302	70.04	27,35,25,000
Maharashtra	58,285,729	44,455,999	76.27	49,48,79,884
Manipur	1,441,936	1,033,733	71.69	2,79,10,244
Meghalaya	1,192,198	713,079	59.81	2,49,34,000
Mizoram	457,434	0	0.00	1,10,35,000
Nagaland	966,275	625,996	64.78	3,06,25,000
Orissa	25,049,023	18,232,312	72.79	18,75,00,244
Punjab	15,606,639	11,785,471	75.52	13,39,55,000
Rajasthan	31,543,376	23,797,921	75.45	18,00,00,000
Sikkim	257,062	200,077	77.83	46,96,000
Tamil Nadu	47,365,189	31,662,414	66.85	37,98,83,000
Tripura	1,848,602	1,249,171	67.57	1,18,79,000
Uttar Pradesh	98,863,132	56,419,336	57.07	53,51,03,000
West Bengal	48,672,291	41,699,354	85.67	32,77,65,000
A & N Islands	258,296	195,072	75.52	2,69,26,276
Chandigarh	538,607	381,048	70.75	46,63,456
D & N Haveli	111,847	86,800	77.61	4,96,000
Daman & Diu	71,931	45,645	63.46	5,34,911
NCT of Delhi	8,707,531	5,800,683	66.62	7,75,32,000
Lakshadweep	36,738	31,813	86.59	8,67,067
Pondicherry	658,927	555,675	84.33	70,75,000
Chhattisgarh	12,737,705	5,398,879	42.39	28,00,000
Jharkhand+	-	-	-	-
Uttaranchal	5,167,525	2,726,709	52.77	50,00,000

ALL INDIA TOTAL 626,672,714 402,655,806 64.25 4,29,45,61,710

+ Included in Bihar. Separate figures for the State are not available.

Note : Programme in Assam and Mizoram is currently not underway as there are disputes regarding illegal immigration and citizenship issues.